

**OHIO**

Ms. Jean Caudill, RS

Or

Mr. Tom Grigsby, RS  
Residential Water and Sewage Program  
Ohio Department of Health  
PO Box 118  
5th Floor-BLEHS  
246 North High Street  
Columbus, **Ohio** 43216-0118  
(614) 644-7181 or (614) 644-8663  
(respectively)  
(614) 466-4556 (fax)  
[jean.caudill@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:jean.caudill@odh.ohio.gov)  
[tom.grigsby@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:tom.grigsby@odh.ohio.gov)

<http://www.odh.state.oh.us/>



Household Sewage Disposal Rules (for 1, 2, and 3 family dwelling)  
Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29  
July 1977

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3701-29.aspx>

Onsite regulations for Ohio were last amended in July 1977. Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has pending Sewage Treatment System (STS) rules that will replace Chapter 3701-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) per Chapter 3718 of the Ohio Revised Code that became law on May 6, 2005:

[http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=125\\_HB\\_231](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=125_HB_231)

According to this law, new STS rules must be adopted within one year. ODH is on track as of this date to have the new rules adopted on May 4, 2006 if all goes well, but the effective date would be delayed until January 1, 2007.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, (OEPA) is working on new rules for Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems (OSTS). OSTs include all onsite systems other than those governed by Chapter 3718 (ODH oversight of local health district permitting, etc). These OEPA rules are under development and would be adopted as OAC 3745-42-12. More information may become available in this rule development effort at:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pti/OnsiteSystems.html>

OEPA is also pursuing a draft household sewage treatment system General NPDES Permit to complement the STS rules where limited discharging systems will be permitted.

Information on the draft general permit can be found at:

[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/HSTS\\_Draft\\_GP\\_feb06.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/HSTS_Draft_GP_feb06.html)

The developing OEPA and ODH rules provide prescriptive options and yet have provisions that allow for flexibility in alternative design options. Performance provisions are applied more directly to pretreatment and NPDES effluent parameters.

The pending STS rules have provisions for submitting requests for review of components or systems related to the performance provisions in rule. These application procedures are under development. In addition, ORC 3718 established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review those systems and components that are not covered by specific STS language or the review processes established in rule.

Ohio's new code will recognize management programs/contracts or management districts to monitor and maintain onsite systems or individual septic disposal systems. The new law ORC 3718 includes operation permit, O&M requirements, and allows for the establishment of management districts. The existing 1977 rules include operation permits, and about 50% of the local health districts have established operation inspection programs over the past 30 years. The pending STS rules has a specific rule (pending OAC 3701-29-16.1) dedicated to management:

[http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/pdfs/3701/0/29/3701-29-16\\$1\\_PH\\_TBR\\_N\\_RU\\_20060321\\_1237.pdf](http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/pdfs/3701/0/29/3701-29-16$1_PH_TBR_N_RU_20060321_1237.pdf)

The pending permitting rule continues the requirement for operation permits and this rule and other related rules require service contracts for many systems with mechanical components, etc. For information related to existing management programs currently in operation, refer to the last page of the Operation Inspection Survey resource lists contacts:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/584AF3D2B39149BBBE95C43F61B37126/opinspect.pdf>

The local health districts' contact information can be found at:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/localHealthDistricts/localHealthDistricts.aspx>

The State of Ohio does not require onsite professionals to be certified. Pending STS rules recognize national and state voluntary certification programs (NEHA, OOWA, NAWT, OWHA, etc.) and if these are not used, then 6 CE hours / year are required. All service providers, installers, and septage haulers would be required to register locally with evidence of the certification or CE hours, a bond, and passing a state test related to the rules.

In the State of Ohio, depending on what type of inspection, local health districts conduct many types of inspections including site reviews, final installations, property transfers if requested, operational inspections, etc. Service providers do some of the property transfer and operation/maintenance work. There is almost always a cost associated with any type of inspection conducted. In the State of Ohio conducting site evaluations before an onsite system is installed falls on the local health district staff. The 1977 rules do not

have requirements for detailed soil descriptions. ODH's pending STS rules and the OEPA developing OSTs rules will require a detailed soil and site evaluation. The Association of Ohio Pedologists is working with ODH to develop a statewide soil and site evaluation form that would be required to be used under adopted STS rules. While the law and rules do not specify who can conduct these evaluations, whoever does do the work must complete the form, and the form is then subject to review by the permitting agency (in the future, either local health district for adopted STS rules or OEPA district office under the adopted OSTs rules). The pending STS rules do recognize soil scientists but do not limit others, as demonstrated by the following pending language;

*OAC 3701-29-04(B) A site and soil evaluator shall comply with the requirements of rule 3701-29-08 and rule 3701-29-08.1 of the Administrative Code. A site and soil evaluator shall be capable of properly conducting site and soil investigations and accurately recording required information. Demonstration of competency may include, but is not limited to, certification as a professional soil scientist by the association of Ohio pedologists or ARCPACS.*

Local health districts in Ohio (~ 100 with household sewage programs) and the five OEPA district offices issue permits. The State offices of ODH and OEPA do not issue the permits. In the State of Ohio, permits for new construction and for upgrade or modification are tracked by the OEPA, but currently not by ODH. Different permits are not required for alternative/experimental/innovative technologies, but there is an expanded process for review and approval, often including involvement of the state level offices.

Monies from State Revolving Funds (SRF) can be used to assist individual homeowners to:

- Repair a failing or malfunctioning system; or
- Replace a failing or malfunctioning system.

Ohio's SRF loan program is handled through the OEPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assurance (DEFA) at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa> .

In Ohio, training programs are available. There are multiple state resources for training including a wide variety of courses and conferences offered through SETLL and OSU Extension as noted below, ODH Midwest Workshop held each March, Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA) <http://www.ohionsite.org> ; Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA) <http://oeha.tripod.com> ; Ohio Waste Hauler Association (OWHA), and Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) c/o <http://www.ohiowater.org> .

Onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects ongoing in the State of Ohio have been conducted by The Ohio State University Extension. The Ohio State University Extension utilized 319 funds to install 3 demonstration systems. See the OSU Soil Environment Technology Learning Lab (SETLL) web site at <http://setll.osu.edu>

For further information please contact:

Ms. Karen M. Mancl, Ph.D.

Professor, Extension Water Quality Specialist

OSU Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

590 Woody Hayes Drive

Columbus, **Ohio** 43210-1057

(614) 292-6007

(614) 292-9448 (fax)

[mancl.1@osu.edu](mailto:mancl.1@osu.edu)